



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

29 OCTOBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – Demonstrators Stabbed During Large Rally

(U) Three people were stabbed during a demonstration near the River Park Shopping Center on the evening of 28 October. Fresno police said a man got upset that some of the demonstrators from a rally were causing standstill traffic, blocking the flow of traffic. The agitated man got out of his car and confronted some among the approximate 150 demonstrators. The man then allegedly returned to his vehicle and pulled out a bat or a stick, and started swinging it amid the crowd, as the crowd began to subdue the man, he then produced a knife and began slashing at people. Three young men, between the ages 18 to 26 years old, were injured by the knife. The suspect managed to flee the scene by ramming a couple of vehicles to get out of the traffic lot. He was later arrested and faces at least charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

SOURCE: 29 October 2020, [Fresno Bee](#)

(U) San Francisco – Growing Wave of Ransomware Attacks Strike US Hospitals

(U) Eastern European criminals are targeting dozens of US hospitals with ransomware, and federal officials yesterday urged healthcare facilities to beef up preparations rapidly in case they are next. The FBI is investigating the recent attacks, which include incidents in Oregon, California, and New York. The attacks prompted a teleconference call, led by FBI and DHS officials for hospital administrators and cybersecurity experts. In the past, ransomware infections at hospitals have downed patient record-keeping databases, which critically store up-to-date medical information, affecting hospitals' ability to provide healthcare.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Torrance – Police Arrest 27 in CA EDD Scam

(U) Police have arrested more than two dozen people, for fraud and identity theft, in a scam targeting California's Employee Development Department (EDD). More than 130 California EDD debit cards and \$150,000 in cash were recovered during the investigation. Four firearms, including two non-serialized ghost guns, were also recovered. The individuals are accused of using stolen identities to fraudulently obtain unemployment benefits administered by the EDD.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [KTLA](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Several Police Officers Injured as Protests Enter Second Day

(U) Washington – Several Washington DC police officers have sustained injuries after a second night of protests over the police-related death of a 20-year-old Black man named Karon Hylton. The number of officers injured, and the extent of their injuries is as yet unclear. The protest crowd grew into a march that went around the neighborhood, with police using pepper spray and flashbang munitions to keep demonstrators away from a nearby police station.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [News Week](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Justice Department Charges Eight in Harassment Plot

(U) Washington – The Justice Department has charged eight people with working on behalf of the Chinese government in a pressure campaign aimed at coercing a New Jersey man who was wanted by Beijing to return to China to face charges. The defendants participated in a Chinese government operation known as “Fox Hunt,” which was ostensibly created to help Beijing locate fugitives abroad. But US officials say in practice it relied on intimidation and bullying to go after dissidents and political opponents. Five of the eight, including an American private investigator who was hired as part of the effort, were arrested. The other three are believed to be in China. All eight were charged with conspiring to act as illegal agents for China in a case filed in federal court.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Florida – Man Accused of Hacking into Voter Database to Change Governor’s Address

(U) Naples – A 20-year-old man is accused of changing Governor Ron DeSantis address in the state's voter database. Anthony Steven Guevara also accessed the voter registrations for US Senator Rick Scott and sports celebrities Michael Jordan and LeBron James but made no changes. Police arrested Guevara on Tuesday, a day after the governor discovered the anomaly while trying to cast a ballot. According to investigators, Guevara logged onto the Florida Department of State website, entered the governor's date of birth, and changed his address.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [Fort Myers News-Press](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Curfew Enforced After Two Nights of Unrest

(U) West Philadelphia – A citywide curfew is now in effect, following two nights of protest, unrest and looting in the aftermath of Philadelphia police shooting and killing Walter Wallace Jr. Residents are being urged to stay inside during that time. Grocery stores, restaurants and pharmacies may choose to operate delivery services past the 9 p.m. start. A handful of protesters were arrested, when they refused to leave for the curfew after receiving several warnings. Businesses in neighborhoods throughout the city boarded up ahead of the curfew.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [NBC 10](#)

(U) Washington – Microsoft Says High Profile Conference Attendees Were Targeted in Cyber Attack

(U) Redmond – Microsoft says over 100 high-profile potential attendees of two international security and policy conferences, were targeted in a cyber-attack, backed by the Iranian government. The group, known as Phosphorus (or APT35), sent spoofed emails masquerading as organizers of the Munich Security Conference, one of the main global security and policy conferences attended by heads of state, and the Think 20 Summit. Microsoft said the spoofed emails were sent to former government officials, academics, and policy makers to steal passwords and other sensitive data, like email inboxes.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [Tech Crunch](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) France – Three Dead in Knife Attack at Church

(U) Nice – An attacker armed with a knife killed three people at a church today. Authorities said it was the third attack in two months in France. The assailant was wounded by police and hospitalized after the killings at the Notre Dame Church, less than half-mile from the site in 2016 where another attacker plowed a truck into a Bastille Day crowd, killing dozens. The attacker was believed to be acting alone and police are not searching for other assailants. France’s anti-terrorism prosecutor’s office opened an investigation into the killings.

SOURCE: 29 October 2020, [Associated Press](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Spain – Judge Probes Catalan Separatism Links with Russia

(U) Barcelona – A judge in Barcelona is probing possible links between some of the promoters of Catalonia's 2017 attempt to declare independence from the rest of Spain with an alleged misinformation campaign and overall effort to destabilize Europe that Spanish investigators link to Russia. The probe led to the arrest of 21 suspects on suspicions of corruption and promoting public disorder. The probe was partly based on police evidence that purported Russian agents allegedly offered to provide military aid to Catalan separatists at the height of their failed secession bid in 2017.

SOURCE: 28 October 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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